

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 40–42, 44–47, and 49 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 43 and 48 are canceled.

Claims 40, 42–45, and 47–49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatsuno et al. (U.S. Patent 5,281,797) in view of Maekawa (U.S. Patent 6,606,286). However, the present invention converts “an input second voltage input from an external power supply into a first voltage greater than the input second voltage.” (Claims 40 and 45) “The input second voltage being the only externally supplied voltage to the laser driving device.” (Claims 40 and 45) The semiconductor laser is driven by “the first voltage from the voltage converter” and “the control means being powered by the input second voltage.” (Claims 40 and 45) Thus, in the present invention, a maximum 5V is input to the circuit and this input voltage must be stepped up to an 8-10V drive voltage sufficient to drive a violet laser diode. An objective of the present invention is to limit the input to the drive circuit to 5V while producing an 8-10V laser drive voltage, rather than simply using a higher voltage power supply as taught in

the prior art. The Examiner's Office Action simply does not address this limitation. Moreover, neither Tatsuno nor Maekawa discloses in the Figure elements cited by the Examiner driving a semiconductor laser using a second voltage higher than a first voltage input to the drive circuit. Therefore, for at least this reason, Tatsuno and Maekawa, alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or obviate the present invention and claims 40-42, 44-47, and 49 should now be allowed.

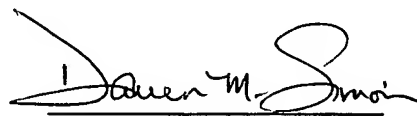
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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